

REMARKS

I. **Introduction**

By the present Amendment, claim 24 has been added. No claims have been canceled. Accordingly, claims 1-12, 22, and 24 remain pending in the application. Claims 1 and 22 are independent.

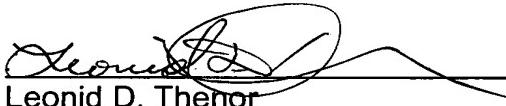
Applicants respectfully request that claim 24 be considered for examination.

If the Examiner believes that there are any matters which can be resolved by way of either a personal or telephone interview, the Examiner is invited to contact Applicants' undersigned attorney at the number indicated below.

AUTHORIZATION

Applicants request any shortage or excess in fees in connection with the filing of this paper, including extension of time fees, and for which no other form of payment is offered, be charged or credited to Deposit Account No. 01-2135 (Case: 500.43486X00).

Respectfully submitted,
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